Native Bee Challenge

The Native Bee Challenge is a part of the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, an annual program that challenges young people to apply critical thinking and STEM skills to a real-world agriculture challenge. In Iowa, the collaborative, hands-on challenge will help youth:

- Learn about the diversity of native bees and their importance as pollinators of food crops.
- Understand how pollination works and why it is important.
- Explore ways to increase pollinator habitat.

Activities for youth

- **Pollination**: Experience life as a bee as you visit flowers to get food and for yourself and your young. Learn how pollination happens, how bees are involved and why we need pollination for crops.
- **Habitat**: Use a map to look for opportunities to increase habitat while learning about conservation practices in agriculture and in cities.
- **Make a bee nest**: Get materials to make your own bee nest to take home. Take part in citizen science as you record any nesting bees.

Get Involved

Iowa 4-H is looking for teen leaders to help facilitate these activities at events across the state. There is a short online application, [https://goo.gl/forms/tBR5mL8POPsKMTm92](https://goo.gl/forms/tBR5mL8POPsKMTm92), for anyone in grades 9 to 12 to apply to be a teen leader.

**Iowa 4-H Contact:** Maya Hayslett, hayslett@iastate.edu

Mason Bee Photo by Joseph Wilson